Wildfire Smoke May Impact Local Air Quality

Wildfire smoke has become a common occurrence during summertime in the Sacramento Valley. The District provides air quality forecasting and alerts available by text message or email. You can sign up on the website.

Smoke is a mixture of carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, hydrocarbons and other organic chemicals, nitrogen oxides, and trace minerals. Particles larger than 10 micrometers do not usually reach the lungs, but can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat. For purposes of comparison, a human hair is about 60 micrometers in diameter.

Small particles with diameters less than or equal to 10 micrometers, also known as particle pollution or PM10, can be inhaled deep into the lungs; exposure to the smallest particles can affect the lungs and heart. Particle pollution includes “coarse particles,” also known as PM10, with diameters from 2.5 to 10 micrometers, and “fine particles,” also known as PM2.5, with diameters that are 2.5 micrometers and smaller. Another pollutant of concern during smoke events is carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, odorless gas produced by incomplete combustion of wood or other organic materials. Carbon monoxide levels are highest during the smoldering stages of a fire, especially in very close proximity to the fire.

The air quality monitor in Yuba City provides near real-time PM2.5 concentrations. In addition, the District owns and deploys a portable monitor called an “EBAM” during smoke events. Beale Air Force Base also owns an EBAM which can be deployed during smoke events on base.

For more information visit our website or https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/wildfires.
**Welcome Maria Ramos, Administrative Assistant!**

Maria joined the FRAQMD staff in early September. Some of her duties as Administrative Assistant include greeting visitors, answering phones, maintaining records, and providing information regarding burn activities. She also assists in processing accounts receivables by receiving fees and payments and posting receipts into the computer databases.

Maria graduated from Cambridge College and has an A.S. Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. She loves working with numbers. Previously she worked for State Farm Insurance and Yuba County. She also has a real estate license. She lives in Yuba City with her husband Gerardo and 3 sons. Her oldest son just graduated high school and will be leaving to join the Air Force soon. Her middle boy is in 8th grade and the youngest is 4 years. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and going on sight-seeing road trips.

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**2017 Carl Moyer Awards**

The District signed 9 contracts for Carl Moyer Program projects to date in 2017 for a total off $376,181. The projects will achieve oxides of nitrogen, reactive organic gas, and particulate matter reductions in Yuba and Sutter counties by replacing uncertified diesel off-road equipment and stationary irrigation engines with final Tier 4 diesel or electric equipment.

The Carl Moyer Program will open again in December 2017. Changes to the upcoming year will be made to reflect the [2017 CARB Guidelines](#).

The District also received $983,098 to replace eight school buses from the Carl Moyer State Reserve fund. The buses to be replaced were selected by CARB and cannot be operated after December 31, 2017 due to the statewide Truck and Bus Regulation.

Also of note, AB 1274 (O’Donnell) was passed by the California Legislature this year and would, beginning January 1, 2019, exempt motor vehicles that are 8 or less model-years old from being inspected biennially upon renewal of registration and will assess an annual smog abatement fee of $25 on motor vehicles that are 7 or 8 model-years old. The bill would require a certain amount of the fee to be deposited into the Air Pollution Control Fund to fund the Carl Moyer Program. This would increase the amount of funding available locally in the annual grant program.

Visit [http://www.fraqmd.org/carl-moyer-grant-program](http://www.fraqmd.org/carl-moyer-grant-program) for more information on the District’s Carl Moyer Program.

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**Blue Sky Grants**

Proposals for the Blue Sky Grant Program will be accepted beginning August 17, 2017. Projects should reduce emissions from registered motor vehicles or reduce vehicle miles traveled. The District has approx. $250,000 for AB2766 and $300,000 for school bus replacement/retrofits under AB923. Proposals are due October 16 by 5:00 pm.

A public workshop will be held at 10:00 am on September 27, at the District office.

For more information visit our website [http://www.fraqmd.org/blue-sky-grant-progrm](http://www.fraqmd.org/blue-sky-grant-progrm).

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**Update on VW Settlement**

On July 27, the CARB approved a $200 million investment plan from VW. As part of that plan, Electrify America has chosen the Sacramento region as the first of two Green Cities, in which it will provide a set of ZEV initiatives that are accessible to city inhabitants. This will include charging stations and access to ZEVs for car sharing, and other “ride and drive” opportunities.

If your business is interested in installing publically available charging stations, you can find out more information [here](#). The District is not directly involved with the investigation or the funding plan.